

Mendocino School Bus Barn
44141 Little Lake Road
Mendocino, CA 95460
Case Numbers 1TMC399 and 1TMC016

Notice of Proposed No Further Action related to petroleum hydrocarbon discharges from underground storage tank systems.

Comment Period ends **March 4, 2004**

Problem Description: This property is the site of the Mendocino Unified School District bus barn, offices, middle school, and grammar school.

In September 1998, three underground storage tanks (USTs) and associated piping were removed from the area of the bus garage fueling facility. Soil from under the USTs was contaminated with diesel and gasoline with concentrations up to 15,000 parts per million (ppm) and 1,900 ppm, respectively.

Actions Completed: Approximately 100 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated from the UST area, and later was properly disposed, when the USTs and associated piping were removed. In March 2000, eight soil borings were drilled to assess the extent of soil and groundwater contamination at the site. Three of the borings were converted into monitoring wells. No soil contamination was detected. Groundwater was contaminated with up to 35 parts per billion (ppb) MTBE (a gasoline component); TPH-gasoline and TPH-diesel were not detected. The groundwater contamination did not extend off-site. The three monitoring wells plus two more previously installed monitoring wells in the downgradient direction were monitored quarterly for three years. The groundwater gradient direction was to the west. The maximum concentration of MTBE in the monitoring wells has dropped to below 5 ppb. The primary and secondary California public drinking water maximum contaminant limits for MTBE are 13 ppb and 5 ppb, respectively.

Prior Cleanup Issue: In 1986 and 1987, three private wells to the west of, but not adjacent to this site were found to have low level TPH-diesel contamination. A leaking diesel UST line at the school had leaked and been repaired in 1985. Due to the private well detections, soil and groundwater was investigated at the school. Some contaminated soil was removed. Five monitoring wells were installed. No diesel contamination was found in the groundwater at the school. Diesel was not detected in the groundwater during the more recent investigation, which did utilize some of the older monitoring wells. By July 1997, each of the private wells that had TPH-diesel detections was non-detect for TPH-diesel.

Proposed Action: No further action related to the petroleum discharges from the underground storage tank systems is proposed once the monitoring wells are properly decommissioned.

Unless comments are received with significant new information, Regional Water Board staff plans to concur with no further action upon conclusion of the comment period. Please contact Craig Hunt at (707) 570-3767 with any questions or comments.